

Claims

90. A wheelchair comprising:

- a) a seat assembly including a reclinable backrest and two side frames
- b) the side frames being interconnected by a foldable assembly which selectively spaces the side frames in a use position and when in a folded position for storage,
- c) each side frame mounting a respective rear wheel and a respective connection arrangement;
- d) the connection arrangement being arranged such that in use as the backrest is reclined the rear wheels are automatically moved rearwardly to compensate for the rearward movement of a user's center of gravity, and when the backrest (24, 230) is returned to a more upright position the rear wheels are automatically moved forward; and,
- e) the seat assembly being removable from the remainder of the wheelchair and selectively locatable thereon when the chair is in an erect condition to retain the side frames apart and to engage with respective connecting arrangement.

91. A wheelchair according to claim 90, characterised in that the backrest is pivotally mounted relative to the rest of the seat assembly.

92. A wheelchair according to claim 90, characterised in that the wheelchair includes means for selectively locking the backrest in a required position.

93. A wheelchair according to claim 92, characterised in that the locking means are releasable selectively and one at a time by a user on the wheelchair and a person positioned to push the wheelchair, and are automatically engageable following release.

94. A wheelchair according to claim 92, characterised in that the locking means (28, 30) includes a ratchet arrangement.

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95. A wheelchair according to claim 92, characterised in that the locking means includes at least one actuatable cylinder, said at least one cylinder being arranged to return the backrest to a fully upright position.

96. A wheelchair according to claim 90, characterised in that the rear wheels are each slidingly mounted on respective tracks which are generally horizontal when the wheel chair in use.

97. A wheelchair according to claim 91, characterised in that the rear wheels are each slidingly mounted on respective tracks which are generally horizontal when the wheel chair in use.

98. A wheelchair according to claim 97, characterised in that a connection arrangement is provided extending between each rear wheel and the backrest, each connection arrangement being engageable with an associated one of a plurality of elongate members on the opposite side of the pivotal mounting of the backrest, and engageable with extensions from the backrest.

99. A wheelchair according to claim 97, characterised in that each elongate member is removably engageable between two abutment members, which abutment members are slidably mounted on a second track.

100. A wheelchair according to claim 90, characterised in that the rear wheels are removably mounted on respective mounting assemblies.

101. A wheelchair according to claim 100, characterised in that handbrake arrangements are provided for the rear wheels which are connected to the wheel mounting assemblies to be movable therewith, and adjustment means are provided for the handbrake arrangements.

102. A wheelchair according claim 90, characterised in that each connection arrangement is an elongate support member, the rear wheels each being mounted on the respective elongate support member and each support member is pivotally mounted to the wheelchair and also connected to

the backrest, such that reclining of the backrest causes rearward pivotal movement of the support members.

103. A wheelchair according to claim 102, characterised in that the support members are mounted about respective pivotal axes which are substantially horizontal when the wheelchair is in use.

104. A wheelchair according to claim 102, characterised in that the support members are cranked generally adjacent the pivotal mounting and the rear wheels.

105. A wheelchair according to claims 102, characterised in that the connection between the support members and backrest is provided by a strip, mountable on the support members and the backrest.

106. A wheelchair according to claim 100, characterised in that the wheel mounting assemblies comprise locking members selectively engageable to lock the wheels on the respective assembly, and the locking members are selectively operable by a person on the wheelchair and a person positioned to push the wheelchair.

107. A wheelchair according to claim 106, characterised in that the locking members are selectively engageable with bearing members which rotatably mount the wheels, the bearing members being releasable with the wheels from the remainder of the wheelchair.

108. A wheelchair according to claim 90, characterised in that the wheelchair includes temporary ground engagement arrangement, toward the rear of the wheelchair to permit the rear wheels to be removed while a person remains supported on the wheelchair.

109. A wheelchair according to claim 90, characterised in that the wheelchair includes a third wheel arrangement for climbing curbs.

110. A wheelchair according claim 90, further including front wheels characterised by the height of the front wheels being adjustable.

111. A wheelchair according to claim 90, further including selectively removable arm rests.

112. A wheelchair according to claim 111, characterised in that the arm rests are pivotally movable in a substantially vertical plane when the wheelchair is in use.

113. A wheelchair according to claim 111, characterised in that side curtains selectively extendible downwardly from the arm rests are provided.

114. A wheelchair according to claim 90, characterised in that the side frames are interconnected by foldable assemblies such that in an erect condition the assemblies space the side frames from each other, and in a foldable condition the side frames and foldable assemblies lie substantially flat on each other.